

# **News**



## Macomb County Library

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### **LITERACY COORDINATOR RETIRES**

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. – Marsha DeVergilio, director of the Macomb Literacy Partners at the Macomb County Library, announced her retirement, effective Friday, July 29.

“In her 18 years with the Literacy Partners, Marsha has helped share the gift of reading with about 4,000 Macomb County Families,” said Darlene LaBelle, director of the Macomb County Library. “On her watch, volunteer tutors donated about \$2.5 million worth of their time helping others overcome the difficult and often embarrassing problem of not being able to read.”

The Macomb Literacy Partners is a program that recruits tutors to teach illiterate adults, or those who use English as a second language, how to read. The tutors meet individually with adult participants once or twice a week to work on reading skills.

“It’s a fairly lengthy process, sometimes lasting up to three years,” LaBelle said of the reading program. “It is definitely a long-term commitment.”

“Read to Me, Rosco!” a Literacy Partners initiative launched by DeVergilio in 2001, aims to increase literacy by encouraging parents to read to their children. Children whose parents read to them are more likely to become good readers themselves, said LaBelle.

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Under DeVergilio's leadership, "Read to Me, Rosco!" has more than doubled the number of Literacy Partners adult participants with children under 6 years old, and increased by 27 percent the number of adult participants with children ages 5 to 18.

Macomb Literacy Partners began as a statewide initiative, an experiment in 1984 funded through federal start-up grants. The Macomb County Library volunteered to serve as the host agency.

The Literacy Partners is now a significant part of the Macomb County community, with annual contributions from the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and more than 500 corporate and individual donors each year.

The Macomb County Library is located at 16480 Hall Road (near Garfield), Clinton Township. The library is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday from September through May. Visit [www.macombcountylibrary.org](http://www.macombcountylibrary.org) for dates and times of additional programs.

The Macomb County Library and its many programs and services are a public service of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

### **About Macomb County**

Macomb County is an enriching community in Southeastern Michigan that has one of the state's fastest rates of growth. Its 825,000 residents make it Michigan's third-largest county, with direct access to Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay, and a host of cultural and entertainment options. Its highly skilled workforce and investment in new and expanding businesses make it open to enterprise. Active civic leadership translates into balanced budgets and Michigan's second-lowest tax rate. An increasingly diverse population and high quality of life make Macomb County accessible to all.

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